UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,628	06/20/2006	Uwe Ackermann	2003P01978WOUS	4881

46726 7590 02/22/2010

BSH HOME APPLIANCES CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
100 BOSCH BOULEVARD
NEW BERN, NC 28562

EXAMINER	
HALL, COREY JOHN	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3743	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
02/22/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

NBN-IntelProp@bshg.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/583,628	ACKERMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	COREY HALL	3743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 November 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *10,13-23 and 25-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *10, 13-19, 21, 23, and 25-27* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *20 and 22* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *20 June 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10, 13-19, 21, 23, and 25-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The indicated allowability of claims 19 and 24-25 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Asada et al. (JP 09-220399) and '595 (DE 27 06 595 A1). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

3. Claims 20 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: on line 9 "form or wires" should be changed to "form of wires". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 10, 13, 16-18, 21, 23, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asada et al. (JP 09-220399) in view of '852 (GB 1 491 852 provided by Applicant in IDS dated 6/20/2006) and '595 (DE 27 06 595 A1).

7. Regarding claims 10, 13, 16-18, 21, 23, and 26, Asada et al. discloses a drier (figs. 1 and 3 showing a drying basket in a dryer, para. 24, lines 1-3), comprising: a rotary drum (5, fig. 1)

that can be fed through a feed opening (8, figs. 1 and 3, "clothes input port 8" para. 25, line 4), through which drum process air is able to flow from a rear wall (6, fig. 1) into an end plate (9, fig. 1, para. 25, line 1-para. 27, line 2 describing the flow of the air from a rear wall 6 into an end plate 9 through an air circulation duct 25) . . . ; and a drying basket (50, fig. 16, "dry shelf 50" para. 5, line 1 and para. 32, lines 1-3 describing the dry shelf 40 shown in figure 1 as optionally being made of metal wire) with a lattice type basket (50a, fig. 16, para. 5, lines 1-3) projecting into the drum (fig. 1, "extended in a dry room" para. 5, lines 5-7 and para. 30, lines 4-9 describing the drying shelf extending into a dry room), the drying basket including two longitudinal supports (51, fig. 16 showing two longitudinal supports 51, "the main shelf frame 51 which formed a thicker wire" para. 5, line 3) in the form of wires, the supports (51, fig. 16) comprising integral connecting devices (51a, 53, fig. 16) that each include a bent end section (51a, fig. 16) and a bent support section (53, fig. 16) located between the bent end section (51a, fig. 16) and the longitudinal support (51, fig. 16), wherein the basket (50, fig. 16, "It is attached so that the frame of a clothes input port may be pinched with the locking claw part 51a and the support arm 53" para. 5, lines 1-7) is supported demountably (para. 30, lines 5-9) on the end plate (9, figs. 1 and 3), and . . . and allowing the bent support sections (53, fig. 16) to rest against the end plate (9, figs. 1 and 3, para. 5, lines 3-7 describing the bent support sections 53 resting against the frame of a clothes input port and para. 30, lines 5-9 describing the similar basket 40 having support sections that rest on the end plate), wherein the drying basket (50, fig. 16) has a longitudinal support (51, fig. 16) on both longitudinal sides, a laundry drier (figs. 1 and 3 showing a drying basket 40 in a dryer, para. 24, lines 1-3) comprising: a housing (1, fig. 1); a rotary drum (5, fig. 1) disposed within the housing (1, fig. 1) and including a rear wall (11, fig. 1)

having inlet openings through which an air flow enters the rotary drum (fig. 1 showing the air flow entering rear wall 11, passing through a heat exchanger, and then entering the rotary drum 5); a feed opening (8, figs. 1 and 3, para. 25, line 4) in the housing providing access to the rotary drum (5, fig. 1); an end plate (9, figs. 1 and 3) disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening (8, figs. 1 and 3) and . . . ; a drying basket (50, fig. 16) including two elongated longitudinal supports (51, fig. 16) in the form of wires (para. 5, line 3) and a lattice type basket (50a, fig. 16, para. 5, lines 1-3) supported by the longitudinal supports (51, fig. 16), each longitudinal support (51, fig. 16) including a connecting device (51a, 53, fig. 16) comprising a bent end section (51a, fig. 16) that forms a hook ("locking claw part 51a" para. 5, lines 3-4) and a bent supporting section (53, fig. 16) located between the bent end section (51a, fig. 16) and the lattice basket (50a, fig. 16), the drying basket being removably connected to the end plate (9, figs. 1 and 3, para. 4, line 1-para. 6, line 4 describing the drying basket being attachable to the part which forms a clothes input port and para. 30, lines 3-8 describing how the basket of figure 1 is attached to the end plate) and projecting into the rotary drum toward the rear wall (fig. 1 showing a drying basket projecting into the rotary drum, para. 5, lines 1-7) . . . , and each of the supporting sections (53, fig. 16) engaging a surface of the end plate (9, figs. 1 and 3) to support the drying basket within the rotary drum (fig. 1 showing a drying basket 40 similar to the one shown in figure 16 and how it extends into the drum, para. 4, line 1-para. 6, line 4 describing the supporting sections engaging the end plate to support the drying basket), wherein each bent end section (51a, fig. 16) includes a bending section curving away from the drying basket (50, fig. 16 showing the bent end sections 51a described as locking claws bending away from the drying basket 50, para. 5, lines 1-7), a method for removably connecting a drying basket (50, fig. 16,

para. 4, line 1-para. 6, line 4 describing using a drying basket 50, para. 30, lines 4-9 describing attaching a drying basket and para. 32, lines 1-3) to a laundry drier (fig. 1, para. 4, line 1-para. 6, line 4), the method comprising the following acts: providing the laundry drier (figs. 1 and 3) comprising a housing (1, fig. 1), a rotary drum (5, fig. 1) disposed within the housing, a feed opening (8, figs. 1 and 3) in the housing providing access to the rotary drum (5, fig. 1), and an end plate (9, figs. 1 and 3) disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening (8, figs. 1 and 3) and . . . ; providing the drying basket (50, fig. 16) including two elongated longitudinal supports (51, fig. 16) and a lattice type basket (50a, fig. 16) supported by the longitudinal supports (51, fig. 16), each longitudinal support including a connecting device (51a, 53, fig. 16) having a bent end section (51a, fig. 16) in the form of a hook ("locking claw part 51a" para. 5, line 4) and a bent supporting section (53, fig. 16) located between the lattice type basket (50a, fig. 16) and the bent end section (51a, fig. 16); . . . ; and positioning each bent supporting section (53, fig. 16) on a surface of the end plate (9, figs. 1 and 3, para. 5, lines 1-7 and para. 30, lines 5-9) to support the drying basket within the rotary drum (fig. 1), wherein the engagement of the bent end section (51a, fig. 16) . . . and the engagement of the bent support section (53, fig. 16) with the end plate support (9, fig. 1) cause the drying basket to project into the drum in a cantilevered fashion (fig. 1, para. 5, lines 1-7 and para. 30, lines 5-9), and wherein the engagement between the bent end sections (51a, fig. 16) and . . . and between the bent supporting sections (53, fig. 16) and the end plate (9, fig. 1) cause the drying basket to project into rotary drum in a cantilevered fashion (fig. 1, para. 5, lines 1-7 and para. 30, lines 5-9), except for having two openings adjacent to the feed opening, wherein the basket is mounted by inserting the bent end sections into the openings in the end plate, including two basket openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate, with

each of the basket openings receiving one of the bent end sections, wherein the longitudinal support and connecting device are integrally formed from a rigid wire member having various angled sections bent into the desired configuration, including two basket openings, inserting each bent end section into one of the basket openings with the drying basket projecting into the rotary drum, in the opening, and the basket openings. However, '852 and '595 (where '852 and '595 are essentially the same invention, '852 providing an English description while '595 provides a drawing showing the two openings) teach having two openings ('595, 15, fig. 2 showing openings 15 for projections 8, '852, page 2, lines 112-121 describing recesses in which free ends of projections 8 are to engage) adjacent to a feed opening ('852, 12, fig. 2), wherein a basket ('595, fig. 2 at 2) is mounted by inserting end sections ('595, 8, fig. 2) into openings ('595, 15, fig. 2, '852, page 2, lines 112-121), including two basket openings ('595, 15, fig. 2, '852, page 2, lines 112-121) disposed near opposing ends of an end plate ('852, 12, fig. 2), with each of the basket openings ('595, 15, fig. 2, '852, page 2, lines 112-121) receiving one of the end sections ('595, 8, fig. 2), wherein the longitudinal support ('852, 9, fig. 1) and connecting device ('852, 8, fig. 1) are integrally formed from a rigid wire member ('852, page 2, lines 47-48) having various angled sections ('852, fig. 1 showing bent sections at 8, 9) bent into the desired configuration, including two basket openings ('595, 15, fig. 2, '852, page 2, lines 112-121), inserting each end section ('595, 8, fig. 2) into one of the basket openings ('595, 15, fig. 2, '852, page 2, lines 112-121) with the drying basket ('595, fig. 2 at 2) projecting into the rotary drum ('595, 10, fig. 2), in the opening ('595, 15, fig. 2, '852, page 2, lines 112-121), and the basket openings ('595, 15, fig. 2, '852, page 2, lines 112-121) in order to provide a more rigid stationary support for the rack ('852, page 2, lines 112-121). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Asada et al. reference, to include having two openings adjacent to the feed opening, wherein the basket is mounted by inserting the bent end sections into the openings in the end plate, including two basket openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate, with each of the basket openings receiving one of the bent end sections, wherein the longitudinal support and connecting device are integrally formed from a rigid wire member having various angled sections bent into the desired configuration, including two basket openings, inserting each bent end section into one of the basket openings with the drying basket projecting into the rotary drum, in the opening, and the basket openings, as suggested and taught by '852 and '595, for the purpose of providing a more rigid stationary support for the rack. The Applicant is combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results. The Applicant is combining the prior art elements of a wire drying basket that projects into a drying drum while attached by integral connecting devices that include bent end sections that hook onto the end plate using locking claw parts and bent support sections that rest on the end plate as disclosed by Asada et al. with the prior art elements of a wire drying basket that projects into a drying drum while attached by integral connecting devices that include end sections that hook into corresponding openings adjacent to the feed opening and bent support sections that rest on the end plate as taught by '852 and '595 according to known methods to yield the predictable results of a wire drying basket that projects into a drying drum while attached by integral connecting devices that include bent end sections that hook onto the end plate using a locking claw part and corresponding openings in the end plate adjacent to the feed opening and bent support sections that rest on the end plate. One would be motivated to combine Asada et al. with '852 and '595 because '852 and '595 teach a wire drying basket that has a more

rigid stationary support from having its end sections hook into corresponding openings and the wire drying basket of Asada et al. could be similarly improved by having openings corresponding to its bent end sections, thus better achieving a state of rest (Asada et al., para. 4, lines 1-4) by more rigidly securing the bent end sections into the end plate.

8. Claims 14-15, 19, 25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asada et al. (JP 09-220399) in view of '852 (GB 1 491 852) and '595 (DE 27 06 595 A1) as applied to claims 10 and 16 above, and further in view of Czech et al. (US Patent No. 4,720,925 cited in Notice of References Cited mailed 1/6/2009) and Maytag Appliances Sales Co. ((Maytag Neptune Dryer) 2004, [online], [retrieved on 2009-8-10] Retrieved from the Maytag Owners Center Manuals and Literature for model MDE7500 using Internet <URL: http://shared.whirlpoolcorp.com/product_literature/search_results.jsp?searchTerm=MDE7500&siteCd=MT_EN_US> cited in Notice of References Cited mailed 8/17/2009).

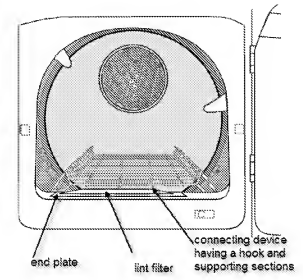
9. In regards to claims 14-15, 19, 25, and 27, Asada et al. in view of '852 and '595 discloses the claimed invention, except for wherein a demountable lint filter is arranged in the end plate, which filter is adjacent to the opening, wherein the openings in the end plate and the connecting devices are covered by the lint filter, further comprising a removable lint filter including a lint screen and an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm, the end plate including an elongated recess extending between the basket openings and the lint filter being received into the recess, further comprising a lint filter that is mounted in a slot formed in the end plate, wherein the lint filter covers the openings in the end plate and the bent end sections of the wires, wherein the mounting of the bent end sections into the basket openings and the engagement between the bent supporting sections and the end plate do not

prevent a lint filter from being mounted in a recess in the end plate. However, Czech et al. teaches wherein a demountable lint filter (42, fig. 4, "lint filter 42" col. 3, lines 22-25) is arranged in an end plate (28, fig. 4, "bulkhead panel 28" col. 3, line 3), which filter (42, fig. 1) is adjacent to an opening (fig. 1 at 22), wherein the openings in the end plate and the connecting devices (where openings in the end plate and connecting devices were disclosed by Asada et al. in view of '852 and '595) are covered by the lint filter (fig. 4 showing a lint filter 42 having an upper diaphragm 72 that covers an opening in the end plate at E and Figure A below from Maytag, page 22, showing connecting devices covered by a lint filter), further comprising a removable lint filter (42, fig. 4) including a lint screen (82, figs. 4 and 6) and an elongated upper diaphragm (72, fig. 6) having a projection at each opposing end (fig. 6 at 80 showing a projection at each opposing end at 80 on the left and 80 on the right) of the upper diaphragm, the end plate (28, fig. 4) including an elongated recess (52, fig. 4) extending between the basket openings (where the basket openings were disclosed by Asada et al. in view of '852 and '595) and the lint filter (42, fig. 4) being received into the recess (52, fig. 4), further comprising a lint filter (42, fig. 4) that is mounted in a slot (52, fig. 4) formed in the end plate (28, fig. 4), wherein the lint filter (42, fig. 4) covers the openings in the end plate and the bent end sections of the wires (where the openings and bent end sections were disclosed by Asada et al. in view of '852 and '595 and Figure A below from Maytag, page 22, showing end sections of wires being covered by a lint filter), wherein the mounting of the bent end sections into the basket openings and the engagement between the bent supporting sections and the end plate (where the openings and bent end sections were disclosed by Asada et al. in view of '852 and '595) do not prevent a lint filter (42, figs. 1 and 4 and Figure A below from Maytag, page 22, showing end sections of wires

being covered by a lint filter) from being mounted in a recess (52, fig. 4) in the end plate (28, fig. 4) in order to filter lint with a lint filtering screen with restricted edges portions to limit lint-buildup thereat and a distended midportion to permit a greater depth of lint to accumulate (col. 4, lines 20-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Asada et al. in view of '852 and '595 reference, to include wherein a demountable lint filter is arranged in the end plate, which filter is adjacent to the opening, wherein the openings in the end plate and the connecting devices are covered by the lint filter, further comprising a removable lint filter including a lint screen and an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm, the end plate including an elongated recess extending between the basket openings and the lint filter being received into the recess, further comprising a lint filter that is mounted in a slot formed in the end plate, wherein the lint filter covers the openings in the end plate and the bent end sections of the wires, wherein the mounting of the bent end sections into the basket openings and the engagement between the bent supporting sections and the end plate do not prevent a lint filter from being mounted in a recess in the end plate, as suggested and taught by Czech et al., for the purpose of filtering lint with a lint filtering screen with restricted edges portions to limit lint-buildup thereat and a distended midportion to permit a greater depth of lint to accumulate. The Applicant is combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results. The Applicant is combining the prior art elements of a laundry dryer having a wire drying basket attached to an end plate through bent end sections and bent supporting sections as disclosed by Asada et al. with the prior art elements of a laundry dryer having a demountable lint filter arranged in a recess in an end plate adjacent to an opening and having a lint screen and an

elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm as taught by Czech et al. according to known methods to yield the predictable results of a laundry dryer having a wire drying basket attached to an end plate through bent end sections and bent supporting sections, a demountable lint filter arranged in a recess in an end plate adjacent to an opening and having a lint screen and an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm. Additionally, it would have been obvious to combine Asada et al. with Czech et al. in view of Maytag which teaches a laundry dryer having a wire drying basket (Maytag, page 22) with the ends reaching into the lint filter recess positioned at the end plate and having the lint filter in place during the operation of the laundry dryer (Maytag, page 4) to provide shorter drying time and greater energy efficiency (Maytag, page 4). One would be motivated to combine Asada et al. with Czech et al. because Czech et al. teaches using a lint filter with restricted edge portions to limit lint build-up thereat and a distended portion to permit greater lint accumulation and the drying basket of Asada et al. could be similarly improved by allowing a similar lint filter to be inserted into its end plate to capture lint and limit lint build-up in edge portions, thus providing shorter drying time and greater energy efficiency by capturing lint while limiting lint build-up in edge portions of the lint filter.

Figure A.



Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to COREY HALL whose telephone number is (571)270-7833. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9AM to 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth Rinehart can be reached on (571)272-4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Corey Hall/
Examiner, Art Unit 3743
/Kenneth B Rinehart/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3743